

WI Early Head Start Fact Sheet

EHS History:

The 1994 Head Start Reauthorization established a new initiative to extend Head Start to include infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families. The Early Head Start (EHS) program was launched in FY 1995, when 68 grantees were funded. At the end of FY 2000, there were over 635 EHS grantees nationwide. The purpose of these programs is to provide either directly or through referral, early, continuous, intensive and comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income families with children under three and pregnant women. Programs have a great deal of flexibility in how they provide these services, depending on the family and community needs and resources. Programs can design center-based services, home-based services, or a locally designed option. In response to the needs of families for quality child care and other services, EHS program are required to establish partnerships and linkages with other entities and to develop a collaborative network with other agencies within their communities. The Head Start Performance Standards contain specific provisions to enhance and protect the health and safety of pregnant women, infants and toddlers. They also include requirements for infants-toddler child development and family services, professional development for staff, and community development. Early Head Start expands Head Start's commitment to the inclusion of children and families with disabilities by requiring that 10% of program enrollment opportunities be reserved for infants and toddlers with disabilities and that program work with Part C agencies in their communities. (*Source: EHS fact sheet, 1999*)

EHS Partnerships:

Early Head Start programs must coordinate services with services provided by programs in the state and programs in the community to ensure a comprehensive array of services. They must ensure formal linkages with local Head Start programs in order to provide for continuity of services for children

and families. They also must ensure formal linkages with the providers of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Programs must take an active role in community planning to encourage strong communication, cooperation, and the sharing of information among agencies and their community partners and to improve the delivery of community services to children and families. These agencies may include: health care providers, mental health providers, nutritional service providers, providers of services to children with disabilities, family preservation, and support services, child protective services, local educational agencies, providers of child care services, and any other organizations or businesses that may provide support to resources to families. (Source: Head Start Program Performance Standards 1304.41)

EHS Eligibility:

EHS is a federally funded program based upon a family's yearly income. A maximum of 10% of the programs total enrollment can be filled with families exceeding the income guidelines, based upon a program prioritization scale. The income guidelines for FY 2002 for the 48 Contiguous States are:

Size of Family UnitPoverty Guideline

1	\$8,860
2	11,940
3	15,020
4	18,100
5	26,480
6	30,330
7	34,180
8	38,030

(For family units with more than 8 members, add \$3,080 for each additional member)

(Source: ACF Information Memorandum – ACY-IM-02-03)

Local EHS Programs:

WI currently has 11 EHS programs within the state:

Grantee	Grantee Location	Service Area (WI Counties)
CESA 11	Turtle Lake	Barron, Dunn, Chippewa
CESA 7	Manitowoc	Manitowoc
Child & Family Centers of Waukesha	Waukesha	Waukesha
Dane County Parent Council	Madison	Dane, Green
Family & Child Learning Centers	Rhineland	Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Marinette, Langlade, Oconto
Kenosha Achievement Center	Kenosha	Kenosha
Next Door Foundation (delegate)	Milwaukee	Milwaukee
Renewal Unlimited, Inc.	Portage	Juneau, Adams, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge
Rock/Walworth CFS	Janesville	Rock, Walworth
Southwest CAP	Dodgeville	Richland, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette
West Central Community Action	Glenwood City	Polk, St. Croix, Pierce

Actual enrollment for Wisconsin Head Start and Early Head Start during the 2000-01 program year reached 16,692 children. Enrollment for EHS children, by age is summarized here: *(Source: WHSA 2001 Annual Report)*

<u>Age</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Under 1	623
1	394
2	442
3	6,343 (combination of EHS/HS)

I want more information on EHS, where can I look?

QNet website

www.regionvqnet.org (EHS neighborhood)

Early Head Start National Resource Center @ Zero to Three

www.ehsnrc.org

Head Start Bureau

www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb

Head Start Information and Publications Center

www.headstartinfo.org

National Head Start Association

www.nhsa.org

Wisconsin Head Start Association

www.whsaonline.org